

TERRIFIC SPEED OF AUTOMOBILE RACING

Sensations of Man Behind Wheel
In Great Automobile Contest.

LABOR OF BRAIN AND MUSCLE

Driver Must Depend Entirely Upon
His Five Senses—Must Leave Be-
hind Him Every Thought of Danger,
Adopting the Philosophy of Fatalist.

(Written Especially for The Sun by
Bernard Lillienblum.)

Motor car racing is a strenuous business. It is not play for children, nor does it contain the elements of a pink tea. It is hard work, and requires labor of brain and muscle and tact and skill from start to finish. When a human being travels on a racing car at the rate of two miles, or even a mile a minute, in competition, depending entirely upon his five senses and a mute companion for guidance, staking his nerve and judgment, his experience or inexperience with the course, against a thousand chances of disaster or worse, he is presumably playing with death. Does he realize or remember it at the time? Never—if he wishes to win.

A number of persons have asked me questions about the sensations one experiences and the penalties one pays for racing—and is the game worth the candle. This is my reply:

Most of the drivers in the race are more salaried employees of automobile manufacturers. If one of them wins he will receive a substantial money reward. This explains in part, but in small part only. What of the other competitors, Foxhall Keene, Walter Christie, George Heath, men of large means, of habits of luxury, men who have everything which tends to make it worth while to stay alive? Is it simply the sportsman's love of victory and its glory? This and more. All of them are fascinated by the holding of immense power and speed within the hollow of the hand. Do they think of the danger of death while racing? Assuredly not, or they could not drive. Even the mechanic who sits beside the driver in the racing car may not think of the risk, or he could not ride there and play his part. The risk is so great that if the imagination is allowed to dwell with it the fear will be paralyzing. Then there is the element, the fear, of sudden death. Naturally different persons have different ideas and degrees of fear when it comes to swift annihilation, but it would be courting destruction in the surest and unsafest way to permit oneself to ponder seriously about it.

Next, no man has any business to enter a racing car unless he can leave behind him absolutely every thought of danger. He should adopt the philosophy of the fatalist, and then attend exclusively to the game. Tires that run true at twenty miles an hour may and do burst at the pressure of sixty to seventy miles. Axles that are rigid at low speed, may and do snap—the brittle glass when the race is on. Stones or surface impediments that merely jostle the driver in his car going at ordinary speed, make a cornering automobile when it is doing ninety miles an hour. Ruts that would only stop a machine going slowly, upset one going very rapidly. Brakes may fail of performing their duty, a cylinder may crack, or one of many accidents may happen in the best regulated machines with disastrous consequences—and to that extent the driver must unquestionably have and hold his life in his hand when mounting his car for a great race.

To the bystanders the passing of a

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car is like a sweep of a meteor; on comes the monster with the cylinder explosions like the reports of a piece of rapid fire artillery. Then, as the car comes abreast and sweeps past, these reports, though booming louder, are overborne by the tremendous swishing noise, caused by the rush with which the air was cleft by the car and by the gritting of its wheels on the ground. After the big machine has hurried by the majority of those at the stands gaspingly inquire of their neighbors, "Who was it?" It was simply a streaking something to them, although the car has a huge number painted in white on its front and sides.

After all, the answer to the question makes very little difference to most of them, as it makes little to them who win the race, aside from a desire to see the reward of victory go to the most skillful and most daring. This crowd is hungry to see how near a man may come to being killed and yet escape.

Found Dead in Bed.

Montgomery, Ala., Sept. 18.—Judge Terry M. Richardson, of this city, was found dead in bed at the St. Charles Hotel in Luverne Monday, having been overcome by chloroform, which he had taken to allay a headache. Judge Richardson had gone to Luverne to appear as one of the attorneys in a murder case. The body was warm when found, and a physician who was summoned said Judge Richardson had been dead about an hour or two. The deceased was a prominent attorney and formerly served on the circuit bench of this state.

Gompers Will Ask Aid.

Washington, Sept. 18.—As a result of a recent conference President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, will issue an appeal for aid for the striking telegraph operators. Mr. Gompers said Monday that the document had been completed and will be given to the public. "It will be," he said, "a general request to organized labor for assistance both financial and moral, in accordance with the pledge made at the recent meeting of the executive council of the federation."

Sentence of Twenty Years.

Allentown, Pa., Sept. 18.—Twenty years in the penitentiary at Philadelphia was the sentence pronounced here Monday on Robert Partsell, who pleaded guilty to twenty-three charges of arson and theft. Partsell, with Daniel J. Adams, was arrested recently charged with setting on fire three business places in Allentown, causing a loss of \$100,000.

Mayor Smith in Jamestown.

Macon, Ga., Sept. 18.—Mayor B. Smith is attending a meeting of the League of American Municipalities in Jamestown this week. During his absence Mayor Pro Tem. Leon S. Dure is holding down the affairs of the city. He will preside over the meeting of the city council. Mr. Dure makes an excellent official.

More Trouble at Odessa.

Odessa, Sept. 18.—Notwithstanding the proclamation of the new prefect of Odessa, General Novitsky, outrage in the streets here were resumed Monday on the occasion of the funeral of a police official. The black band fired revolvers recklessly all day, broke into Jewish houses, pillaged them and cruelly beat their occupants. Two Jews were killed and many were injured. Reports are reaching this city of raids, robberies and murders at other places.

Monument to Bay State Soldiers.

Winchester, Va., Sept. 18.—With interesting monuments and in the presence of half a hundred prominent citizens of Massachusetts, a monument commemorative of the Massachusetts soldiers who fell in the battle of the Shenandoah valley during the civil war was dedicated here Monday. The monument was erected under an appropriation of the Massachusetts legislature. The Massachusetts party present included Governor Guild.

Killed by an Automobile.

New York, Sept. 18.—Daniel Bacon, manager of the Marine Magnetic Control company, of this city, was struck by a steam engine automobile at the corner of Thirty-first street and Park avenue as he was about to cross the street, and knocked senseless. He died subsequently at a hospital.

Brains of Corpse Stolen.

Savannah, Ga., Sept. 18.—The body of Amanda Smith, an old negro woman, was buried here after her brains had been stolen. They were taken out of her head by some unknown parties as she lay in the room on a table of a negro hospital awaiting burial. Who committed the act is not known.

Egyptian Cotton Crop.

Cairo, Sept. 18.—The cotton crop of Egypt, which exceeds seven million cantars (a cantar is a little over 59 pounds) shows a large increase over all records of the past decade. It is estimated to be worth \$150,000,000.

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